

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 JUSE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /059 W  
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R 061039Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6172

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 2253

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, PK  
SUBJECT: LAIL-O-NAHAR ON NUR KHAN

REF: STATE 048753

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

1. WE OBTAINED THE ARTICLE FROM LAIL-O-NAHAR ISSUE OF AUGUST 20-28 ABOUT NUR KHAN. ONLY A RELATIVELY SMALL PART OF THE ARTICLE DEALS WITH HIS ALLEGED RELATIONS WITH AN AMERICAN AIRPLANE MANUFACTURER AND THAT PART SEEMS BADLY CONFUSED. WE QUOTE THAT PART IN FULL AND THE REMAINDER OF THE ARTICLE IN SUMMARY FORM.

END CONFIDENTIAL/BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

2. THE ARTICLE IS ENTITLED "HIGH LEVEL MILITARY COUNCIL STARTS INVESTIGATING PIA". THERE IS NO CREDIT LINE.

3. PART-I (SUMMARY). FIRST PART OF THE ARTICLE DISCUSSES THE PIA CHIEF NUR KHAN'S BRIEF SOJOURN IN POLITICS AFTER HE RESIGNED AS GOVERNOR OF WEST PAKISTAN DURING GEN. YAHYA KHAN'S MARTIAL LAW GOVERNMENT --1969-72. THE ARTICLE NARRATES NOOR KHAN'S JOINING OF THE MUSLIM LEAGUE, ENTERING INTO A DEAL WITH HAROON BROTHERS OF KARACHI AND CHOUDRY ZAHOR ILAHI OF THE PUNJAB. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, NUR KHAN WANTED TO CONTEST 1971 ELECTION FROM THE PUNJAB. WHEN HE REALIZED THE POPULAR THRUST OF THE PAKISTAN PEOPLES PARTY HE ABANDONED THE IDEA OF ELECTION BUT WHEN SHEIKH MUJIB'S AWAMI  
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LEAGUE EMERGED AS THE VICTOR IN EAST PAKISTAN HE STARTED HOBNOBBING WITH MUJIB. HOWEVER, WITH THE COMING TO POWER OF BHUTTO, NUR KHAN SHIFTED HIS COURSE AND PATCHED UP WITH BHUTTO. IN THE BEGINNING HE USED TO DO POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE WORK FOR BHUTTO. PLEASED WITH HIS WORK BHUTTO OFFERED NUR KHAN CHAIRMANSHIP OF PIA IN PLACE OF RAFIQ SAIGOL. TO THE SURPRISE OF SAIGOL WHO REGARDED NUR KHAN A FRIEND, THE LATTER ACCEPTED

THE POSITION. RAFIQ SAIGOL HAD PLANNED TO BUY D.C. 10 PLANES FOR PIA. WORKING ON BEHALF OF LOCKHEED WHICH WANTED TO SELL BOEING PLANES TO PIA, NUR KHAN WROTE A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IN SUPPORT OF LOCKHEED. RAFIQ SAIGOL HOWEVER, WENT AHEAD WITH THE D.C. 10 DEAL AND THE SECRET COMMISSION WHICH DOUGLAS CO. HAD PAID TO SAIGOL FOR BUYING D.C. 10 WAS USED BY HIM TO HELP BUY ANOTHER PLANE FOR PIA.

4. SOON AFTER THAT SAIGOL RESIGNED AND BHUTTO MADE NUR KHAN HEAD OF PIA.

5. IT IS TO BE RECALLED THAT DURING HIS BRIEF POLITICAL CAREER NUR KHAN WAS ABLE TO SWINDLE RS.3 MILLION FROM THE INDUSTRIALISTS HAROONS, VALIKAS AND HABIBS. HE DID NOT USE THE MONEY FOR THE PURPOSE IT WAS GIVEN. NEITHER DID HE RETURN THE SUM BACK TO THOSE INDUSTRIALISTS.

6. PART II (LOCKHEED DEAL). THE SECOND PORTION OF THE ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT NUR KHAN HAD ENTERED INTO A DEAL WITH LOCKHEED OVER THE PURCHASE OF BOEING 747 PLANES. FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSLATION OF PART TWO: "

7. "HAVING GRABBED MONEY FROM THE INDUSTRIALISTS NUR KHAN WAS NOW MENTALLY PREPARED TO MAKE MORE MONEY THROUGH UNFAIR MEANS. HE HAD PREPARED THE GROUND FOR THE DEAL WITH LOCKHEED WHEN HE WROTE THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE AGAINST D.C.10. TO BUY LOCKHEED'S BOEING CONFIDENTIAL

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747 HE ENTERED INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THREE COUNTRIES. GOING AFTER THE LARGEST COMMISSION OFFERED HE SIGNED THE DEAL FOR BOEING 747 WITH PORTUGUESE AIRLINES.

8. THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL HAS SHAKEN THE GREATER PART OF THE WORLD. BY MAKING HEAVY PAY-OFFS IT CAUSED EVEN SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL CHANGES IN MANY COUNTRIES. THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER TANAKA HAD TO RESIGN AND FACE THE TRIAL. THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND HAD TO LIVE THROUGH A SERIOUS POLITICAL CRISIS BECAUSE HER HUSBAND ACCEPTED A BRIBE FROM LOCKHEED. SIMILARLY THE FUTURE OF THE LOCKHEED COMMISSION RECIPIENT WAS RUINED IN INDIA. BUT NOTHING HAPPENED IN PAKISTAN TO THOSE WHO RECEIVED PAY-OFFS FROM THE LOCKHEED. WHY? BECAUSE FORMER FEDERAL MINISTER AZIZ AHMAD CAME TO THE RESCUE OF NUR KHAN. THE QUESTION WHICH WAS RAISED IN (PAKISTAN'S) SENATE WAS IGNORED AND THE MATTER WAS BURIED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 2253

9. A FOREIGN JOURNAL WHICH HAD PUBLISHED DETAILS OF LOCKHEED SCANDAL ALSO REFERRED TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF PAKISTANIS. PIA MANAGING DIRECTOR ANWAR JAMAL WHO IS A CRONY OF NUR KHAN, ADMITTED HAVING RECEIVED CONSULTATION FEE FROM LOCKHEED THOUGH HE DENIED HAVING RECEIVED A COMMISSION. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT ANWAR JAMAL COULD ACCEPT MONEY FROM LOCKHEED WITHOUT THE PRIOR CONSENT OF NUR KHAN. THE PIA CHAIRMAN TRIED HARD TO EXPLAIN THAT THE BOEING 747 WAS JUST THE RIGHT PLANE FOR PAKISTAN BUT THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL WAS STILL TALKED ABOUT HERE FOR A LONG TIME. FORMER PM BHUTTO HAD TO DECLARE THAT HE WAS NOT INVOLVED AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE THE MATTER INVESTIGATED.

10. BUT AZIZ AHMAD WHO AT THAT TIME WAS MINISTER OF DEFENSE FIRST BLOCKED THE INVESTIGATIONS AND FINALLY PUT AN END TO THE MATTER.

11. AROUND THE WORLD ALL THOSE PERSONS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL HAVE BEEN PUNISHED BUT NUR KHAN IS STILL FREE. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES WILL CERTAINLY HAVE THE MATTER INVESTIGATED AND PUNISH THE CULPRITS ACCORDINGLY.

12. PART III. THIRD PORTION OF THE ARTICLE ACCUSES NUR KHAN OF NEPOTISM. IT NAMES THE PEOPLE WHOM NUR KHAN HAS GIVEN IMPORTANT JOBS, QUOTE WHICH THEY DON'T DESERVE UNQUOTE. IT ALSO ALLEGES THAT NUR KHAN USES PIA FACILITIES FOR PERSONAL MATTERS I.E., HE GOES TO TURKEY FOR REST AND TURKISH BATHS AT PIA EXPENSE, AND  
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SENDS HIS PERSONAL ELECTRONIC GOODS TO NEW YORK FOR REPAIR USING PIA FACILITIES.  
END UNCLASSIFIED:

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13. COMMENT: THE OWNER AND EDITOR OF LAIL-O-NAHAR, MANZUR MALIK  
WAS PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FOR NUR KHAN WHEN THE LATTER WAS

GOVERNOR OF WEST PAKISTAN, ENDED BY VIRTUE OF HIS POSITION AS  
CHIEF OF THE AIRFORCE UNDER THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION OF  
GEN. YAHYA KHAN. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE EDITOR HAS SOME OLD  
SCORE TO SETTLE WITH NUR KHAN.

END CONFIDENTIAL.

HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014